AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1-6.   Cancelled.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited ~~in Claim 6~~in Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative paths which best satisfies the R_{ACR} in accordance with one or more rules, if there are more than one of the M alternative paths.

8.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited ~~in Claim 6~~in Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative paths with a maximum amount of unreserved resources to satisfy the R_{ACR}, if there is more than one of the M alternative paths.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited ~~in Claim 6~~in Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative paths with a least amount of unreserved resources but enough unreserved resources to support the R_{ACR}, if there is more than one of the M alternative paths.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited ~~in Claim 6~~in Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting a first one of the M alternative paths found to satisfy the R_{ACR}, if there is more than one of the M alternative paths.

2

11.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited ~~in Claim 6~~in Claim 16, wherein selecting

one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative

paths that satisfies the R_{ACR} according to one or more custom criteria, if there is more than one of

the M alternative paths.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method as recited ~~in Claim 6~~in Claim 16, wherein selecting

one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative

paths that satisfies the R_{ACR} according to one or more fuzzy rules, if there is more than one of the

M alternative paths.

13-14. Cancelled.

15.   (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media having stored

thereon computer executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, causes

the one or more processors to:

        determine that there is an indication of traffic congestion in a first path connecting a

source node and a destination node for a communication session, wherein the first path is a non-

real time connection with a Minimum Cell Rate (R_{MCR}) and Peak Cell Rate (PCR) of R_{PCR};

        ascertain whether M alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy the

R_{PCR} for transferring traffic between the source node and the destination node, wherein M is

equal to or greater than 1; ~~and~~

        select one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the

destination node if the M alternative paths exist, the selected one of ~~them~~ the alternative paths

3

replacing the first path for a remainder of the communication session;

ascertain whether X alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy a reduced Available Cell Rate of R'_{ACR}, if M alternative paths do not exist, wherein R'_{ACR} is less than the R_{ACR}, but is greater than a new available cell rate for the first path if rate control were instituted to eliminate the traffic congestion; and

select one of the X alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the X alternative paths exist, the selected alternative path replacing the first path for a remainder of the communication session.

16.   (Previously Presented) A method for performing congestion control in a node in a connection-oriented packet-switching network, the method comprising:

determining that there is an indication of traffic congestion in a first path connecting a source node and a destination node for a communication session, wherein the first path is a non-real time connection with an available cell rate of R_{ACR};

the source node ascertaining whether M alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy the R_{ACR} for transferring traffic between the source node and the destination node, wherein M is equal to or greater than 1;

the node selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the M alternative paths exist;

the source node ascertaining whether X alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy a reduced Available Cell Rate of R'_{ACR}, if M alternative paths do not exist, wherein R'_{ACR} is less than the R_{ACR}, but is greater than a new available cell rate for the first path if rate control were instituted to eliminate the traffic congestion; and

4

the source node selecting one of the X alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the X alternative paths exist, the selected alternative path replacing the first path for a remainder of the communication session.

17.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

means for determining that there is an indication of traffic congestion in a first path connecting a source node and a destination node for a communication session, wherein the first path is a non-real time connection with an available cell rate of R_{ACR};

means at the source node for ascertaining whether M alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy the R_{ACR} for transferring traffic between the source node and the destination node, wherein M is equal to or greater than 1; ~~and~~

means at the source node for selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the M alternative paths exist, the selected one alternative path replacing the first path for a remainder of the communication session;

means for ascertaining whether X alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy a reduced Available Cell Rate of R'_{ACR}, if M alternative paths do not exist, wherein R'_{ACR} is less than the R_{ACR}, but is greater than a new available cell rate for the first path if rate control were instituted to eliminate the traffic congestion; and

means for selecting one of the X alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the X alternative paths exist.

18-20. Cancelled.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 16, comprising receiving a notification of

traffic congestion at the source node.

22.   (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 17, wherein the source node is configured to

receive a notification of traffic congestion.